**Privatisation of Sales and Collection of Railway Tickets in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**

409. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that support services, like Sales and Collection of Tickets are going to be privatised in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such a decision only for these two States;

(c) whether it is a fact that cleaning of stations, sanitation, catering, parking, gardening and similar activities are to be privatised, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) which are the stations where the above services are going to be privatised;

(e) whether it is fact that all the nine Zonal Railways have floated tender notifications for the above services; and

(f) what is the surplus staff today, if any, in Indian Railways and what would be the surplus staff after privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) With a view to increase the earnings from the commercial publicity as also to improve the maintenance of the stations, the maintenance and beautification of the station has been entrusted on experimental basis at a few stations to parties who will have exclusive rights for commercial advertisement at that station as per the criteria laid down by the railway administration with the prior approval of the competent authority. The contractor will beautify the station by painting of the wall, roof, main building basides undertaking cleanliness of the station. The contract for car/scooter/cycle parking is given to the private parties at most of the stations to the highest bidder on the basis of tenders called.

(e) It has been left to each Zonal Railway to identify the stations which are to be taken up for beautification/ cleanliness by giving it to one party for commercial advertisement.

(f) No staff has become surplus as a result of beautification-cum-maintenance contract given to Bandra and other stations.

**Proposal for Declaring Road as a National Highway**

410. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have submitted any proposal for declaring the Road from Nasirabad (Rajasthan) to Matu (Madhya Pradesh) as a National Highway;

(b) whether various institutions have submitted any representations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The State Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and various other authorities have proposed the declaration of road from Nasirabad (Rajasthan) to Mhow (Madhya Pradesh) as National Highway during the 8th Five Year Plan. However, owing to limited allocation of funds for the Central Sector Roads during the 8th Plan, it is difficult to declare any new National Highway for the present.